

(Translation of selected lines from a patent document)

Document 1

Japanese Patent Application, Publication No.2001-268257

Claimed scopes

Claim 1: A communication terminal apparatus equipped with a storage unit for holding historical records of performed communication sessions, said historical records each including a time-and-date indicator specifying a time-and-date at which an associated communication session has been held, and a display unit for displaying a plurality of the historical records in form of a list in a manner in which the historical records are classified according to associated lengths of time elapsed from the associated time-and-dates and shown in different colours to indicate a thus classified result.

Claim 2: The communication terminal apparatus according to claim 1, in which, in particular, the historical record of a performed communication session is erased from the storage unit when it elapses more than a predetermined length of time with respect to this communication session.

Claim 3: The communication terminal apparatus according to claim 2, in which, in particular, the predetermined length of time is left for a user to specify.

Claim 4: The communication terminal apparatus according to claim 2 or claim 3, in which, in particular, it is configured so that a user can selectively specify historical records so that the specified historical records are not erased.

Claim 5: The communication terminal apparatus according to any of claims 1 – 4, in which, in particular, it is configured so that a user can specify colours used for indicating class distinction among the historical records.

Document 2

Japanese Patent Application, Publication No.H09-326822

Claimed scopes

Claim 1: A message display generation apparatus configured so as to be equipped with:
storage means into which is stored contents of e-mail messages and bibliographical
attributes related respectively with the contents of the e-mail messages;

display means on which is displayed information associated with the data read out from the storage means; and

display control means for controlling the display means so as to display a list of data elements indicating an abstract of the e-mail message content for all the e-mail message contents held in the storage means,

wherein the display control means is, further, configured so as to switch and select a style of each data element contained in the list and displayed on the display means for each of the e-mail message contents depending on details of the associated bibliographical attributes.

Claim 2: The message display generation apparatus according to claim 1, in which, in particular, the display control means is configured so as to include a part of the e-mail message content or the bibliographical attributes or both for each of the e-mail messages into the list of data elements to be displayed on the display means for indicating the abstracts of the e-mail message contents.

Claim 3: The message display generation apparatus according to claim 1, in which, in particular, the storage means is configured so as to hold a sender name listing table indicating the display manners respectively for names of e-mail message senders, and the display control means is configured so as to search the sender name listing table for each of the sender names identified from the bibliographical attributes, and to switch selectively the display manners employed for displaying data elements associated with each e-mail message content according to the sender name listing table.

Claim 4: The message display generation apparatus according to claim 1, in which, in particular, the storage means is configured so as to hold a sender name listing table indicating display colours respectively for names of e-mailed message senders, and the display control means is configured so as to search the sender name listing table for each of the sender names identified from the bibliographical attributes and to switch selectively the display colours employed for displaying data elements associated with each e-mail message content according to the sender name listing table.

Claim 5: The message display generation apparatus according to claim 1, in which, in particular, the storage means is configured so as to hold an elapsed time listing table indicating relationships between display colours and time lengths elapsed from transmission or reception times

of e-mail messages, and the display control means is configured so as to search the elapsed time listing table for an elapsed time length associated with each e-mail message and to switch selectively the display colours employed for displaying data elements associated with the e-mail message contents according to the elapsed time listing table.

Claim 6: The message display generation apparatus according to claim 1, in which, in particular, the message display generation apparatus is configured so as to hold a priority listing table indicating relationships between display colours and priority ranks specified in e-mail message contents or in bibliographical attributes, and the display control means is configured so as to search the priority listing table for a priority rank associated with each e-mail message and to switch selectively the display colours employed for displaying data elements associated with the e-mail message contents according to the priority listing table.

Claim 7: The message display generation apparatus according to claim 1, in which, in particular, the message display generation apparatus is configured so as to hold selection means with which a user can select one or more of the bibliographical attributes, and the display control means is configured so as to have either an e-mail message contents or bibliographical attributes displayed in colours so indicated in the bibliographical attribute or bibliographical attributes of a combination the user has selected with the selection means.

Document 3

Japanese Patent Application, Publication No.2001-175515

Claimed scopes

Claim 1: A method for displaying a list of files comprising steps of:
assigning importance ranks according to an opinion of an associated user to a plurality of files respectively or in units of those contained in each folder; and
displaying names of these files in respectively different manners for indicating respectively assigned importance ranks. Said manner of displaying these file names may be one for displaying these file names in different colours, sizes, or fonts indicating respectively associated importance ranks.

Claim 2: The file displaying method according to claim 1 further comprising a step of;

automatically reviewing revision dates of the plurality of files respectively and changing the importance ranks assigned to the plurality of files in a manner in which the importance ranks are lowered with respect to files that are accessed to less frequently as the files become older; and

changing display manners for displaying the names of the files to reflect the changes in the assigned importance ranks. Said change in the display manner may be one for displaying names of the files ranked lower than before are displayed in characters of a smaller size or less outstanding colour.

Claim 3: A file maintenance system configured so as to erase a file or folder from an associated storage device when the file or the folder comes to be assigned an importance rank lower than a pre-assigned importance rank pre-assigned by a user in a course of the importance ranks assigned to the files being changed according to the file displaying method defined in claim 2.

Claim 4: A file maintenance method comprising steps of:

applying the file display method according to claim 1;

applying a specific graphical display manner for displaying names of the files of the same importance rank group when assigning, in the method according to claim 1, the respectively different display manners to files which are different in terms of the importance ranks; and

allowing search of the files of the same group.

system configured so as to erase a file or folder from an associated storage device when the file or the folder comes to be assigned an importance rank lower than a pre-assigned importance rank pre-assigned by a user in a course of the importance ranks assigned to the files being changed according to the file displaying method defined in claim 2.

Document 4

Japanese Patent Application, Publication No.2001-216068

Claimed scopes

Claim 1: A file icon display apparatus comprising:

storage means for carrying records of file revision time-and-dates and/or file access time-and-dates for each file;

elapsed number of dates determining means for determining a number of dates elapsed after a file has been last revised or accessed for each of the files of which icons are to be displayed; and displayed icon changing means for changing, when the icons are displayed, a display manner of each of the icons according to the number of elapsed dates determined for the associated file by the elapsed number of dates determining means.

Claim 2: The file icon display apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising:

display manner storage means for carrying a plurality of colouring varieties respectively representing display manner alternatives for selection that is based on a number of elapsed dates, wherein

the displayed icon changing means is configured so as to obtain from the display manner storage means a colouring variation correspondent, in terms of the number of elapsed dates, to a file of which an associated icon is to be displayed, and change the colouring manner of this icon accordingly.

Claim 3: The file icon display apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising:

display manner storage means for carrying a plurality of alternative shape definitions respectively representing display manner alternatives for selection that is based on a number of elapsed dates, wherein

the displayed icon changing means is configured so as to obtain from the display manner storage means an alternative shape definition correspondent, in terms of the number of elapsed dates, to a file of which an associated icon is to be displayed, and change the shape of this icon accordingly.

Claim 4: The file icon display apparatus according to any of claims 1 to 3 further comprising:

file attribute storage means for storing file attributes that specify files of which the associated icons are to be changed in terms of their display manner, wherein

the displayed icon changing means is configured so as to change the display manners of the icons of only these files that are correspondent to the file attributes stored by the file attribute storage means when the file icon display apparatus displays file icons.

Claim 5: A data recording medium holding a program that controls a computer to operate so as to display icons corresponding to a plurality of files respectively, the program comprising:

programming codes that direct the computer to maintain records of file revision time-and-dates and/or file access time-and-dates for each of the files;

programming codes that direct the computer, with respect to a file of which a correspondent icon is to be displayed, to determine number of dates elapsed after the file has been last revised or accessed; and

programming codes that direct the computer, when these icons are displayed, to change a display manner of each of the icons according to the number of elapsed dates determined for the associated file.